



“For I was hungry, and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me to drink, I was a stranger and you took me in; naked, and you covered me; sick, and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me.

Then the just will answer him, saying: ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; thirsty, and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger, and take you in? Or naked, and covered you? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and visit you?’”

The King will reply,

*‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’*

*Mathew 25:35-40*

Photo: Kafololo Zambia, child wearing her new school sweater from SCM.



## Executive Director's Letter



Frankie Burg-Feret  
Executive Director

Dear SCM benefactors,

We recently returned from our visit to Zambia (this past July) and for me it was one of personal growth in humility and trust in God for my needs. Of the eight days we stayed in Lusaka and Ndola, six days I lived without my suitcases and my clothing. To my surprise, the Poor Clare sisters sewed a traditional African dress for me as a welcoming gift! The dress was long and challenging to walk in and bright in colour with a pattern I normally wouldn't have chosen myself. I loved it! I felt like a princess as I walked to evening Vespers swaying the fabric back and forth with each step. I wish I could say that I was not bothered by the missing luggage but the love and care we received in Zambia affirmed that these people are our friends, and they love us. We are members of a world-wide community of love!

I am acutely aware of the criticism that some charities receive for their work in developing countries. Many political leaders in the West look at these countries as poor and helpless; and promote programs that ignore their strong beliefs

and rich culture and traditions. Their approach comes with a sense of superiority and desire to colonize. Obianuju Ekeocha in her book *Target Africa* describes how this attitude has led to ideological neocolonialism where the richer nations assume that the answer to the problems in developing countries is to decrease the population ignoring the desired fertility rate of the women in sub-Saharan Africa. She states, "The solution to the slums is not depopulation but rather investment in rural Africa, in its agricultural sector, so that people can make a living...". After many years, I continue to reflect daily on my own actions and words and to remind myself that I am here to serve, and that people are experts of their own lives.

In Lusaka and Ndola, the Poor Clare sisters and the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi were eager to show us how they were able to help those in need in their communities with the donations from our SCM benefactors. The projects they chose were similar; education for the children and farming projects to promote self-sufficiency, provide food for the children, clean water, and jobs for families. With pride, they showed us the vegetables, fruit trees, and livestock they produced, and the children sang! Oh, how they sang with thanksgiving to the One who provides for all of us!

SCM uses your donations in an accountable, responsible, and transparent manner, and we welcome any questions you may have (our contact information is on the back of this newsletter). Please pray with us for the strength and means to continue His work. Without your prayers and monetary assistance, we would not be able to reach the poorest of the poor via the partnerships we have created with our Catholic sisters, priests, and laypeople.

Dorothy Day in the *Catholic Worker* (1957) said, "What can one person do? What is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we can only lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time; we can be responsible only for the one action of the present moment. But we can beg for an increase of love in our hearts that will vitalize and transform these actions and know that God will take them and multiply them, as Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes."

May God bless you all for your generous hearts.

Peace,  
Frankie

## Update from our Missionaries



### LIBERIA

Another well has been completed in honour of St. Joseph!

This very poor community in the slums of Monrovia, Liberia, has few resources. The children now have clean water to drink but as you can see in the photos (right), their washrooms remain in dire need of improvement. Thanks to a very generous benefactor and the careful supervision of Fr. Samuel, a Spiritan priest, the dream of clean, hygienic washrooms at the school will come true!

# Spiritual Director's Reflection



## For No Special Reason, and Nothin' in Return

In our latest trip to Zambia, I was asked to celebrate a Mass for the children. Little did I know what a lasting impact this mass would have on me. As I processed in, I was pleasantly surprised to hear the most beautiful drums and amazing voices singing with such joy and faith. As I moved down the aisle, I immediately noticed a large number of wheelchairs, but it wasn't until I revered the altar and looked out into the congregation, that I realize the whole room was filled with all the severely malformed and handicapped children from the area. I was struck with their overwhelming enthusiastic and contagious joy, which was not only in their strong and vibrant voices, their rhythmic dancing but also shining through their beautiful faces and loving eyes. They were truly present and celebrating this liturgy with hope-filled expectation and a lively dynamic faith.

During the homily I told them that of all the Masses I had celebrated in Africa, I had never heard better music and singing. I also explained to them that the airlines had lost Frankie's bags for the last 6 days, but I was certain that if they prayed, we would find it. I somehow could feel the depth and strength of their faith palpably. Their response to my confidence in them was instantaneous. They took up this personal challenge and affirmation in the power of their prayer without hesitation. Sure enough, shortly after Mass we got a text from the airport telling us our luggage had been found!

The next day I awoke, and before having my coffee I met up with some of the children who were eager to know if I had heard anything. I forgot what they were referring to. They again asked specifically if we had learned anything about finding the luggage. There was an eruption of joyous cheers and smiles as I told them we had gotten word only hours after the Mass! It was so uplifting to see all the children so happy for us and for having helped us. You could feel how proud they felt, not so much in their prayer, but in Our Lord's fidelity and how He had listened and granted their request, not for something for themselves, but to help us.

At the end of our trip, I asked if we could meet with them as Frankie and I had a nice surprise for them. I explained to them that as they were praying for the luggage they were actually praying for their own gifts. It was in that luggage that we were able to share with them all of the gifts that YOU generous supporters of SCM had enabled us to bring. We presented each one of them with a little rosary and a small gift. At the end of that distribution, we blessed them. They then asked if they could sing us a song. Three of the children who had no legs were waiting to hug us as we left. I want to share the beautiful words of the song which almost brought us to tears.

*Oh, what a wonderful world this could be  
If we all opened up our eyes to see  
That love is what we all need right now  
Then we all could come together some way somehow*

*My door is open wide, no matter who you are  
You can come get warm inside  
Cuz I need you, just as you need me  
And there's a way to show it, oh love is the key*

*Chorus  
Oh, on my honor, I see every man as my brother  
And together we can find the hope that's buried deep within  
If we put away our differences and let's all be friends*

*Life can be beautiful when someone gives their love to you  
For no special reason, and nothin' in return  
If we all tried to love like that  
Soon the whole world will learn*

*It may take some time, but we can start by being kind  
To our neighbors in each and every land  
And hope that in return they would be concerned  
About the life of each and every man*

These children were special for reasons that go beyond and transcend their physical description. These children had the capacity to see beyond the external and shared an unconditional love for one another and for us. It was their overwhelming faith in the power of prayer and their deep desire to help show that love concretely to others that moved me deeply. It reminded me again and again how so many times Pope Francis' words ring in my heart that we do not go to evangelize them but that the poor evangelize us. I am ever grateful for the experience of being able to share these special moments of faith and friendship. They were a true and living witness to the reality that life can be beautiful **when someone gives their love to you for no special reason, and nothin' in return.**

Peace,

Fr. Michael Della Penna OFM

(Photo: Fr. Michael with the children at Fisenge farm)

## *Messages of Love from our generous benefactors:*

“Thank you for all the ways that you and so many others are coordinating and facilitating God’s plan to help our sisters and brothers in such great need. We want to help in our way by our prayers and a small donation...”

“I just loved all the info and pictures in the last newsletter. You do so much for so many with our donations. May the Holy Family continue to bless you.”

“Thank you for the newsletter. I do not want to use the word “interesting” but rather the word sobering. It teaches me humility and gratitude. Humility because I am reminded that all I have comes from God. Gratitude because it helps me to count my blessings one by one.”

## Updates from our Missionaries



### ZAMBIA

These photos are from our visit to St. Francis and St. Clare Farm, near the small community of Kafololo. It is this very poor community where the Poor Clare sisters provide jobs for people to work on the self-sustaining farm. The farm is still at the early stages of development but already producing maize (a main staple) and other vegetables that provide nourishment for the children and the sisters.

It is not often that the three orders of St. Francis can come together and work in God’s vineyard so closely! What a blessing it is for all of us! Franciscan founding principles include: God exists as a community of love through the Trinity, God is generous and loving, and we are all brothers and sisters in God’s image. If you are interested in the Franciscan way of life – do not hesitate to ask us!



Photo (right):  
Fr. Michael (Order of Friars Minor), Frankie (Third Order of St. Francis), and Sr. Lubingu (Order of St. Clare) PAX ET BONUM



# Updates from our Missionaries



## ZAMBIA

These photos are from our visit to Fisenge farm near Ndola, Zambia. Thanks to SCM benefactors, Sr. Josephine, Franciscan Missionary Sister of Assisi, is able to add exciting new projects to this flourishing farm! The latest additions are the orange and lemon trees seen above. The recent addition of banana trees, water well, and livestock are all doing very well. Sr. Josephine sends her sincere thanks for your prayers and generous donations. Many children are fed because of YOUR love for the poor.

*Your donations are making a difference*

Photos below from our recent trip to Zambia



# Updates from our Missionaries



## HAITI

Update about the farm from Gerry, SCM board member:

"I will be returning to Haiti at the beginning of September. Baby Solomon goes for another appointment this Thursday and we are praying they will give us a date for his surgery. The bakers are working overtime and we have increased the productivity - we now consume 100lbs of flour a day producing bread and employing 4 merchants and 4 workers in the bakery. We are donating much of the bread to the food program and selling the rest to help pay for supplies and salaries. We are now successfully breeding the rabbits. School will start again in September. The situation in Haiti continues to spiral down with the lack of food, gasoline, and lack of security but we feel safe at the farm."



## ZAMBIA

This past July, while staying at the St. Clare Monastery near Lusaka, we were blessed to meet with Fr. Benjamin to discuss SCM assisting the Brothers of St. Joseph with their good work for the youth in Chipata. Sr. Lilato, Mother Superior of the Poor Clares, had asked us to pray for this new group during the Year of St. Joseph. Fr. Benjamin is their formation director and was able to share how this group of brothers are helping the youth – especially those in poverty. Their mission is to help with education, basic needs, and spiritual formation. The photo (left) is the brothers at the parish in Chipata clearly demonstrating how their work is Christ centred!

A few days later we were blessed with a visit from Bishop George Lungu (see above right), a very holy priest for the poor. He affirmed the work of the Brothers of St. Joseph and shared with us the needs of the people in Zambia and the effects that covid has had on the poor. It was a great honour to meet such a kind and humble soul. He is also a great supporter of the Poor Clare sisters who do so much for the world with their faithful and constant prayers.

# Updates from our Missionaries



## ZAMBIA

Photos (above) children at the Marietta Community Centre in Lusaka

“Your donation was really of great support as we managed to purchase medicine, clothes, and food for vulnerable children. Mercy is among the vulnerable children we support at Marietta Community Centre. She is now 15 years old and is in grade 7. She stays with her uncle in Flaulo village as her grandmother passed on early this year. Mercy is HIV positive and there is no cure for it yet, but she still hopes for a better future and says she would love to become a medical doctor with a vision to help others. She wants to treat people of different diseases and encourage them to believe that everything will be fine. Mercy understands her condition of life and she knows that she must take her medicine on a daily basis and that she should never skip to avoid any complications. She is delighted to know that someone out there loves and cares for her and she says thank you to Silent Children's Mission for the amazing support. Mercy is aware that there are people who love her and that she is important in society.”

Sr. Cecilia, Little Servants of Mary Immaculate



## MALAWI

Silent Children's Mission in collaboration with Sr. Bernadette Densani, Sister of Charity of Ottawa, has been helping children with school fees in Ludzi and surrounding area for many years, even before we received charitable status in 2011. Many of the children have grown and graduated and Paul is an example of how your dollars have given hope to a young person and their family. Education is one of the key means to reducing poverty and enabling the young people in developing countries to overcome inequalities.

Paul Bamusi (photo left), has had many challenges in life as a person with hearing loss. Opportunity for an education in rural Malawi was almost impossible but with the help of a dedicated SCM benefactor, Paul was able to attend a boarding school for children with hearing loss. He has now completed post secondary skills training and is supporting himself as a tailor. He and his family are very grateful for the love he received through Silent Children's Mission.

*"Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could." – St. Gregory Nazianzen*



WE ARE NOW ON  
**INSTAGRAM &**  
*Facebook*

PLEASE FOLLOW AND SHARE  
OUR POST

## From our Youth Representative:



Greetings SCM Community!

We are pleased to announce that our social media is up and running for SCM! You can find us on Instagram and on Facebook @silentchildrensmisson.

At no cost to us, these services provide an additional means to reach new and existing members of the SCM community. Through these platforms, we will be posting SCM news, testimonies, photos from mission trips, responding to messages, and much more.

Please spread the word and share our social media pages so our mission can continue to grow and flourish!

Counting on your prayers and support!

Blessings,  
Sarah Gangl

## How you can help

**MAKE A DONATION:** By sending a cheque payable to: **Silent Children's Mission** and mail it to: RR#1 16060 Concession 8, Schomberg, Ontario, L0G 1T0, Canada (Make sure to include your mailing address for a tax receipt)

**\*Please note: tax receipts are sent quarterly with the newsletters\***

**DONATE ONLINE:** By sending us an email money transfer to [silentchildrenca@yahoo.com](mailto:silentchildrenca@yahoo.com) or through Canada Helps (SCM Registration #815949607RR0001) We also have an iTrade account for those wishing to donate shares. Please remember us in your will.

**QUESTIONS?** Write to us at [silentchildrenca@yahoo.com](mailto:silentchildrenca@yahoo.com) or call us at 416-418-0314

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:** [www.silentchildrensmisson.com](http://www.silentchildrensmisson.com) ,

**INVITE FRANKIE TO SPEAK** at your school, church, group, club or fundraiser.

**QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR TAX RECEIPT?** Write to us at [scmtaxreceipts@gmail.com](mailto:scmtaxreceipts@gmail.com)

**PRAY FOR OUR CHARITY** and its benefactors. We pray and fast for you every First Friday of each month. Unite your intentions to ours!

[Please consider sharing this newsletter with your family and friends](#)